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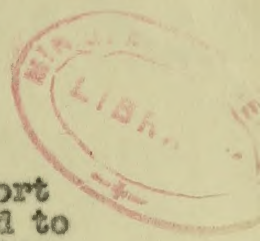
Medical Officer's Report for the Year, 1943. To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.



The Minister of Health has directed that the report for the year 1943 shall again be abbreviated and confined to essential and urgent matters and exceptional administrative measures. He asks that information regarding water supplies shall be included. Statistics are to be preserved but not included in this interim report.

With the exception of mild influenza there was no unusual prevalence of epidemic or other diseases during the year and the health of the population remained good.

The Minor Ailment Clinic at the First Aid Post has done very valuable work in treating Scabies and Verminous conditions. The thanks of the Council are due to the Nurse in charge and her voluntary helpers.

The following table shows the progress made in immunisation against Diphtheria. No case of this disease occurred during the year. There is a tendency for parents' enthusiasm for immunisation to wane unless it is constantly stimulated by propaganda and the efforts of the nurses and doctors.

Percentage of child population immunised on dates shown.

Age group.	Dec. 1940.	Sept. 1941.	June. 1942.	Dec. 1942.	June. 1943.	Dec. 1943.
5 to 15 years.	60.0%	81.0%	81.6%	82.1%	91.3%	88.3%
0 to 5 years.	23.4%	33.2%	32.8%	43.8%	38.5%	38.5%

The whole town has a piped water supply from the Blandford Waterworks Company, which is excellent both in quality and quantity. A deep chalk well gives a very pure water at the source and chlorination gives additional security. Though every house in the town has water within easy reach, a large proportion of them depend on external stand pipes. The supply is constant.

The improvement of housing conditions becomes more and more an urgent requirement.

L. B. Scott, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.